

Disguised to Protect

Historic Landmark

As the last relatively intact WWII post, Radar Station B71 was placed on the National Register of Historical Places on April 19, 1978.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II, the possibility of enemy attack on the U.S. mainland became very real. At one point, Japanese submarines operated in offshore waters and actually shelled some shipping operations and oil installations off the coast of California and Oregon.

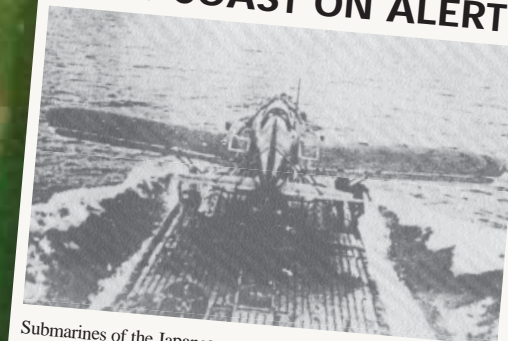
To guard against potential invasion, the U.S. Army built the “farm” buildings you see below. The cinderblock structures, complete with shingled roofs, and fake windows and dormers, housed an early warning radar station.

From the air, the sea, and even the road, these buildings appeared to be part of a working farm. In fact, they housed a diesel generator, electronic equipment, and two 50-caliber anti-aircraft machine guns.

As part of a network of observation stations, the soldiers and civilians stationed here reported any suspicious boats and planes to a communications center in San Francisco, ready to dispatch fighter planes if the crafts were identified as hostile.

The trail to your left leads to the “farm” buildings.

WEST COAST ON ALERT!



Submarines of the Japanese 6th Fleet operated in American coastal waters for eight months during the War. Four of these boats attacked coastal shipping lines, sinking two tankers and damaging some communications installations.

The I-25 sub launched an aircraft from off the Oregon coast on April 9, 1942. The airplane dropped two live bombs on a forest only 30 miles from here. The submarine then sank two tankers before leaving for Japan.